

## Civil Aviation News . . . . .

sidered when the Commission meets on January 27th. This suggestion, aimed as a blow at Ansett Airways, has met strong opposition from State Transport Ministers, who feel that TAA should not be further subsidized by the taxpayer at the expense of the State Railways.

### AIRLINES BY CHARTER

IN 1947, Scottish Airlines' fleet of 20 aircraft flew 1,480,154 miles, more than double the 1946 total of 632,957 miles, and 43,702 passengers were carried. This airline flew services between Prestwick and Iceland under charter to Iceland Airways, and regular services, Prestwick-Belfast, Renfrew-Belfast, London-Renfrew, London-Aberdeen, and London-Prestwick, under charter to B.E.A. The services for B.E.A. terminated in July, 1947. For K.L.M. and Air France, regular services were run between Prestwick and Amsterdam and Prestwick and Paris, and for the Compagnie Belge des Transports Aeriens the Prestwick-Manchester-Brussels route was flown. This Belgian service and the one to Iceland are continuing. Charter flights have been flown to many parts of the world, including destinations in Africa; all over Europe; Iceland; Canada and America; the Near East and India; and the Mediterranean islands.

### STANDARDIZATION IN STATISTICS

THE first meeting of the Statistics Division of I.C.A.O. was held on January 13th in Montreal, the primary purpose being to review the work of the Organization in putting back into operation the statistical reporting machinery, employed prior to 1939 by the International Commission for Air Navigation, which lapsed into disuse during the war. Statistical experts from member States of I.C.A.O. are considering proposals to reduce the heavy burden of paper-work placed upon the airline operators, who maintain large and costly staffs for this purpose. As much of data required is entered in the airport records as well as those of the airlines,

means are being considered by which automatic flow of necessary information through the national governments to I.C.A.O. is ensured. Standardization of terms and definitions employed in aviation statistics is also under consideration in order to eliminate confusion, both among experts and the general public caused by the variations in use to-day.

### LUXEMBURG AIRLINES

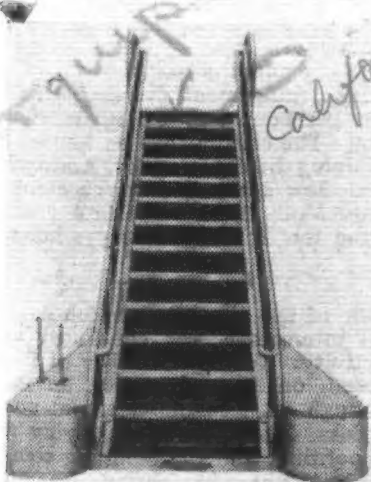
THE Grand Duchy of Luxemburg will inaugurate its first airline on February 1st with two regular Dakota services between Luxemburg, Paris, Zurich and Frankfurt. All the equipment of the new company—Luxemburg Airlines—will be supplied by Scottish Aviation, Ltd. The ground staff will be composed of Luxemburgers, and Luxemburg nationals will be trained as pilots, first in Scotland and ultimately at home; but in the initial stages Scottish Aviation will provide pilots. Luxemburg Airlines will operate under government control and the company has been founded with an initial capital of 6,000,000 Luxemburg francs, approximately £34,000. In addition, Scottish Aviation has entered an agreement with the new company for providing technical assistance.



LONDON—PARIS: Four S.O. Vanguedoc 161 four-engined aircraft have been placed on the Air France service between London and Paris. The first one arrived at Heathrow on Monday last, January 19th. Air France will eventually replace all aircraft on the route with this 33-seater which is powered by four Pratt and Whitney Twin-Wasp engines.

## BREVITIES

TWO standardized loading ramps with hydraulic adjustments for height, enabling them to be used with the majority of airliners, are being made by the Airquipment Co., Burbank, California.



American Adjustable Gangway.

There are three models. The De Luxe 120 and Economy 120 have an adjustment range of from 50in to 120in, and the third model, the De Luxe 130, ranges from 80in to 130in. In both cases the stairway steps are automatically levelled. De Luxe types are panelled in polished aluminium and the Economy models in aluminium-painted canvas.

The Hon. C. D. Howe, Canada's Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, announced on his return from the West Indies, the completion of an air agreement between Canada and the Bahamas.

Such an agreement links up with Trans-Canada Air Lines' proposed service between Montreal and the West Indies. Mr. Howe has also opened discussions on the subject with Jamaica. The Minister's flight was made on a "North Star" Mark II before its delivery to Trans-Canada Air Lines.

Detailed figures for G.C.A. landings at London Airport

during December show that 50 practice landings were made, 43 with visibility over 2 miles and cloud base over 1,000 feet and 135 with visibility less than 2 miles and cloud base less than 1,000 feet. In all 228 landings were made by G.C.A. out of a total of 1,052 made during the hours of G.C.A. operation (0800-2100 hours).

Within the Metropolitan Control Zone under Instrument Flight Rule conditions aircraft will now be required to adjust altimeters to a standard setting to obtain altitude separation. The value chosen is to be the actual value of QFF at London Airport as computed by the Meteorological staff, and it will be termed "the Zonal QFF."

K.L.M. have doubled their Amsterdam-Johannesburg service, which will, from March 2nd, operate twice a week. This service is operated by Constellations and the flying time for the 6,500-mile trip will be 24½ hours, excluding, on the outward journey, a 16-hour night stop at Leopoldville.

Reports come from America of a new landing instrument invented by Mr. Paul Flint, who developed a low-level bomb-sight used by the U.S.A.A.F. The device is said to project a full-size illusion ahead of the aircraft. When landing, the pilot peers through a sight and watches an orange dot until it reaches a certain point on the ground ahead of him, when he begins his landing glide. The instrument automatically takes into account the characteristics of the aircraft to which it is fitted and has adjustments to enable the pilot to make settings for weight, load, gliding speed and wind velocity.

B.E.A. plan to expand air mail services to the Western Isles, but the matter is still under discussion and exact details are not yet known. The airfield at Sollas, between Benbecula and Stornoway, is included in the planned extensions, but at